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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO. 50X1

DATE DISTR. 13 Jan 1954

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. 50X1

50X1

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT The General Staff Academy

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SOURCE

1. The General Staff Academy in Moscow is now 1953 called Akademiya Generalnovo Shtaba imeni Voroshilova (General Staff Academy imeni Voroshilov). Prior to the end of World War II it was designated as Akademiya Generalnova Shtaba KA (General Staff Academy of the Red Army). It was founded in about 1931. The Academy was located in a building which had been used by the Frunze Military Academy and, prior to the Russian Revolution, had housed a school for gentlewomen named the Alexander Marianski Institute. It was located on Prechistenka Ulitsa. This street is now called by another name, which I do not recall. It was between Arbat Ulitsa and Ulitsa Metrostroye. The opening of the Academy was made easier by the fact that some of the instructors and students of the Frunze Military Academy were taken over by the General Staff Academy. Students were assigned to the new Academy, but could not apply for it. About half of the students were generals commanding divisions and the other half colonels commanding regiments. There were a few officers of somewhat lower rank, as major, who were chosen for outstanding ability. Officers selected to attend this Academy were those who were believed likely to advance to positions of high rank and responsibility. They were chosen from only the basic arms: infantry, artillery, tanks, cavalry, and a few from the air force.
2. Both instructors and students at the General Staff Academy wore special uniforms. The trousers were blue with three narrow stripes of dark raspberry down the sides. The blouse was the usual khaki, but with dark raspberry piping and tabs.

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3. As of 1941, the Academy had approximately 55 instructors (almost all were of general rank) and about 100 or 120 students. It was a two-year course and all students followed the same curriculum. At times, students were reassigned, if needed elsewhere, before completing the course. In 1941, the head (nachalnik) of the General Staff Academy was Lieutenant General (fnu) Shilovsky [equivalent to Major General in the US Army]. A well informed and well educated man, he had served in the Russian Imperial Army as a captain of the General Staff. He was a member of the Communist Party as of 1941. He would be about 70 years old in 1953. Incidentally, there was no specific retirement age for officers in the Soviet Army.
4. The main faculty (kafedra) of the Academy was that of Tactics. It was called *Tactico Operativnaya Iskustva*; in effect, over-all military planning. More than half of the instructors were in this faculty. Another quite important faculty was that of Military History, which had four or five instructors. Other faculties were concerned with the various arms and services, such as Engineers, Tanks, and Artillery. They each had one or two instructors.

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